

2 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Stan Kimmitt, Secretary to  
Majority Leader Mansfield

1. During a conversation with Mr. Stan Kimmitt today, I mentioned the possibility of Senator Mansfield visiting with the Director at the Agency. I told him that there was nothing at all pressing about this and there was nothing specific on the Director's mind but we had talked about Senator Mansfield and the Director had indicated he would be delighted to have him come out for breakfast or lunch and an informal chat if he was inclined to do so.

2. Mr. Kimmitt gave me some very useful information about Senator Mansfield. He confirmed my opinion that Senator Mansfield was somewhat of a "loner," not given to informal chatter or socializing. Kimmitt said Mansfield was somewhat like Senator Russell in this regard: he is very chary of his time and likes to keep to a strict schedule. Kimmitt said the Senator is invariably in the office at 7:00 a.m. (Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays included.) He goes through every piece of mail received in his office himself and attempts to answer each letter personally, if he possibly can. At approximately 8:00 a.m. each day he has coffee with one or two of his Senate colleagues. After coffee he returns to his Majority Leader's Office on the second floor, finishes dictating any correspondence he might have and then goes through a foot high stack of newspapers, personally clipping items of particular interest to him. He sometimes meets visitors between 11:00 a.m. and the noon hour, when the Senate normally convenes. If the Senator is particularly anxious to avoid a long conversation with someone who has requested an appointment he will schedule the meeting for 11:45 or 11:50 a.m. knowing that he has to leave at 11:55 a.m. to go to the Senate floor. If for any reason he wants the visitor to remain, he will ask him to do so until he can leave the Senate. His afternoon's are usually spent on the floor and in leadership sessions. When he accepts evening social invitations, he makes it a point to leave his engagement as early as he can reasonably do so.

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3. Mr. Kimmitt advised that if the Director had some particular item on which he wanted to brief the Senator or desired his advice on a particular subject, he would suggest that I approach the Senator through the reception room of the Senate, calling him off the floor. At that time I should tell the Senator that the Director is anxious to see the Senator stating the subject matter and being guided by the Senator's reaction to the particular situation. Mr. Kimmitt said that the Senator is very careful to avoid becoming "chummy" with people and if he feels this happening he will almost deliberately back off. He pointed out that this was merely Senator Mansfield's manner and should we encounter this we should not construe it as anything against the person involved.

4. Mr. Kimmitt feels that the Director is doing a good job and enjoys a good reputation in the Senate and has the respect of Senator Mansfield. Unless there is some really valid reason for a meeting, he would suggest that we not extend a general invitation. I told Kimmitt there was no need to discuss our conversation with the Senator but should the Senator ever express an interest in meeting with the Director or visiting our Headquarters building, he should know that we would be only too happy to receive him.

5. I mentioned to Kimmitt the fact that the Director was trying to maintain an impartial position with regard to the current debate on the ABM issue and the only thing I could anticipate he might want to speak to Senator Mansfield on in the foreseeable future was the problem of handling requests from individual senators for briefings on the ABM. I added that we were considering establishing a "canned" briefing presented by a briefing officer, if this situation should develop and appears to be a problem. Kimmitt merely commented this might be a satisfactory solution. He is favorably disposed to the Agency and has been helpful to us in many instances in the past. I am sure he would have our best interests in mind if any question concerning the Agency were to come up in his presence.

[Redacted Signature]

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Deputy Legislative Counsel

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